



Welcome to the Clark County Community Development e-News. We send this publication out once a month to announce the latest in what's happening. We will attempt to cover a broad range of topics that we hope will be of interest to you. We need your input! We welcome your comments about our news bulletin; and if you have topics you would like us to cover and we haven't, we'll do our best to accommodate you!★

Final plat and final site plan processes

Since December 2000, Community Development has been working to implement the recommendations of a performance audit conducted by Citigate Associates. Among the key issues, the audit confirmed the need to improve the county's current review and approval processes for final plat and final site plans. [Click here](#) for the rest of the article.★

Pillar of Economic Development

On November 6th the Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC) gave the Clark County Community Development Department its "2003 Pillar of Economic Development" Award. The



award was for the department's "Express Permitting" program. The program was done in response to the CREDC recommendation that the county undertake the creation of a 90-day permitting program as part of the county's economic development initiative. CREDC announced the award at their annual luncheon banquet at the Red Lion conference center. The award was accepted by Craig Pridemore, the Chair of the Board of Clark County Commis-

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Commitment to service and willingness to change

The Customer Service Division has been very busy over the last several months! Customer Service has successfully implemented new and improved systems to streamline division operations. Through the development of an operations manual and increased group training, made possible by a change in hours of operation, more staff are now able to perform key functions, including coordination of case managed projects. Workloads and priorities have been reorganized resulting in improved timelines for telephone responses, Type I application reviews and building permit legal reviews.

Although it may seem self-serving to "toot our own horn", this is the result of a lot of hard work, creative thinking, commitment to service and willingness to change that allows us to serve all of the divisions better.★

Here a tap, there a tap, everywhere a TAP TAP!

New construction on in-fill property is inevitable, but when the property owners in Hazel Dell found five new developments start up at the same time in a 3 square mile radius, they were not overly joyous. Ac-

November 2003 Inside:

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- ★ CDU restarts in January
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- ★ ComDev in the news



cess roads have been closed, people can't get to their mailbox, trees have been removed, and the rumbling and vibration just doesn't stop. Those are just a few of the complaints heard since construction began. Yes, that's construction, but it's five times the normal neighborhood impact.

In order to eliminate some of the confusion on who to call during the construction phase, Code Enforcement has been designated the central clearing house for all complaints. Any complaints regarding development in the Basin 12A development area, which is between 88th and 99th Street, and 25th Avenue and St. Johns Rd, should be directed to them. Code Enforcement will document the concern, forward it to the appropriate individual and then track it to find out how the issue was resolved and make sure the complainant was contacted regarding the results. By changing the process for the Basin 12A area, the customer will not have to search out various individuals because they do not know who to call. If you have any questions about this process or have a complaint to register, call (360) 397-2375 ext. 4184.★

Building Retains an Internal Structural Engineer

As recently as six years ago, Clark County had a structural engineer on staff to perform commercial plan review. However, during the annex to the City of Vancouver, the structural engineer transferred to the city's plan review department, leaving the Building Division in the tenuous position of balancing the needs of the various owners, applicants and constructors, with departmental needs. In order to streamline the building process, and thereby eliminate the expense and

delay of services experienced through contracting with consulting engineers, the County retained John Greenheck P.E. as its internal Structural Engineer. The structural engineer is primarily responsible for assuring the integrity of major structural elements and compliance with current Washington State Building Codes. By maintaining this position in house, the Building Division's ability to effectively adapt to changes in priority, accurately maintain code sections relevant to a project's life safety issues, and efficiently review and issue building permits has significantly improved.★

Congratulations!

Charles Clark recently passed the Commercial Mechanical Inspector examination and **Paul Sybor** has obtained Mechanical Inspector UMC certification. **Wayne Folkers** has recently passed the Plumbing Inspector UPC examination and was promoted to Combination I Inspector.★

New Faces

Angie Merrill has been hired as an Office Assistant II for the West Team in Development Services. She has worked as a temporary employee in that position since February. Angie provides support for her team which includes preparing public notices and exhibits for land use hearings and keeping schedules of hearings, preapps, and meetings with customers. Prior to working here, Angie was a Business Relations Coordinator for a telecommunications company. Outside of work, Angie enjoys camping, boating, and spending her time with her family.★



Quick Clicks

- Comprehensive Plan Update
- Performance Audit Status
- Team Focus
- Department Calendar

Divisions

- Animal Protection and Control
- Building Division
- Code Enforcement
- Customer Service
- Development Services
- Engineering Services
- Fire Marshal's Office
- Long Range Planning

Annual Community Pride Design Awards

On November 12th, 8th Annual Community Pride Design Awards presentation was held at the Water Resources Education Center. This program was established in 1996 by public and private organizations within Clark County. The program recognizes outstanding and unique efforts in creating buildings, development, and improvements that have had a positive impact on the community. Clark County Community Development and the City of Vancouver co-chair the program.✱

Award recipients were:

Heritage Center in LaCenter
Clark County Amphitheater
Clark County Public Service Center
Hockinson High School
Multimedia Classroom Building,
WSU-Vancouver
Jack, Will and Rob Youth Center in
Camas
Kimball House Restoration in down-
town Vancouver

Honorable Mentions were:

Amspacher Lincoln Neighborhood
Infill House
New West Vancouver Batch Plant
Ridgefield Community Park

Community Development University

After time-off to restructure, CDU classes will resume the first of January. Mark your calendars now to attend the training sessions on the second and fourth Wednesdays. The afternoon class is at 4 p.m. and will be open to the public. They will continue to be one hour classes.✱

ComDev in the News

- “Residents fume over asphalt site.” The Oregonian (11-17-03)
http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro_north_news/106907390661090.xml
- “Two fire district officials on leave, face inquiry.” The Columbian (11-15-03).
http://www.columbian.com/11152003/clark_co/90855.html
- “Fairgrounds — Amphitheater neighbors mull traffic cures.” The Columbian (11-15-03).
http://www.columbian.com/11152003/clark_co/90852.html
- “Motocross park told it must reduce noise.” The Columbian (11-10-03)
http://www.columbian.com/11122003/clark_co/90047.html
- “Job outlook brightens.” The Columbian (11-7-03)
http://www.columbian.com/11072003/front_pa/88588.html
- “Growth plan will miss deadline”. The Oregonian (11-05-03)
http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro_north_news/106812397183310.xml
- “County growth plan unlikely to appear by year’s end”. The Columbian (11-05-03)
http://www.columbian.com/11062003/front_pa/88289.html
- “County growth plan lacks key element: money.” The Oregonian (11-03-03)
http://www.oregonlive.com/metronorth/oregonian/index.ssf?base/metro_north_news/106786446786450.xml✱

What’s On TV Tonight?

There is a lot on CVTV (channel 23) about Community Development. For example, you can watch the animal control, land use, and code enforcement hearings, as well as the county Planning Commission. To see the complete schedule click here: www.cvtv.org✱

Expanding our audience

Do you know others who would benefit from this information? Any list serves that would be appropriate for us to post this on? On the other hand, if you would like to be taken off our e-mailing list, just let us know. Contact Désirée at desiree.demoney@clark.wa.gov.✱